

***Delaware Health Resources Board
SUN Behavioral Health Review Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2015 1:00 PM
Thomas Collins Building
Second Floor Conference Room
540 South DuPont Highway
Dover, Delaware***

Review Committee Members Present:

Bill Love, Chair; Mark Thompson; and John Walsh

Staff Present:

Marlyn Marvel; Joanna Suder; and Latoya Wright.

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Health Resources Board Review Committee for SUN Behavioral Health was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Bill Love, Review Committee Chair.

Opening Comments

Introductions were made around the table for the benefit of the guests. Mr. Love stated that the Review Committee would not be taking any public comments during the meeting. There will be a public hearing where there will be an opportunity for public comments.

Review of SUN Behavioral Health's Application

The Review Committee reviewed the application, along with the Internal Staff Analysis.

Mr. Love stated that the Board has had discussions in the past about the growing expansion of community based health services statewide. He would like to know how the expansion of community mental health services has impacted the need for inpatient services such as SUN Behavioral Health's proposed 90 bed inpatient hospital. He recommended inviting Steven Dettwyler, Director of Community Mental Health and Addiction Services, to attend the next Review Committee meeting and present some information.

John Walsh suggested contacting Michael Barbieri, Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. He stated that the current Health Resources Management Plan (HRMP) does not discuss psychiatric inpatient services. That is something that should be brought to the attention of the HRMP Subcommittee that should be corrected.

Mr. Walsh stated that the Plan discusses looking at resources outside of the state or the general area. There is also a lack of resources outside the state, given that the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Salisbury area has no inpatient mental health facility. The Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) has two psychiatrists on staff but no inpatient facility.

Mr. Love stated that he would be interested to know what the context of health reform is in Delaware in terms of behavioral health for Sussex County. The Health Care Commission is overseeing a plan that is underway through the Delaware Center for Health Innovation (DCHI). He does not know if there is a way to find out how this proposal would fit in the context of that.

Mr. Walsh stated that there is tremendous need with regard to behavioral health and part of the problem currently is the stigma that is attached to it. It would be helpful to know what the Mental Health Association deems the need for short term psychiatric inpatient care in Sussex County; particularly with regard to the Affordable Care Act and the requirement that there will be parity in coverage for both mental and physical health.

The staff will request a letter from Jim Lafferty, Director of the Mental Health Association, that can be shared with the public.

Mr. Walsh stated that the Sussex Correctional Institution is close to the proposed location. Many people requiring mental health treatment end up in prison as opposed to treatment. He asked if the staff could obtain any data from the Department of Correction. That would be another possible source of business for this particular facility if it is approved.

The staff will contact the Department of Correction to see if they can find out how many individuals are incarcerated in Delaware's prison system that have mental health issues. They will ask how many are referred for treatment and if there is a wait time for treatment.

Review Considerations

The Review Committee reviewed the following criteria for reviewing the proposal and requested the following information.

Criterion 1: The relationship of the proposal to the Health Resources Management Plan

Mr. Walsh stated that the Health Resources Management Plan does not address psychiatric inpatient care.

Criterion II: The need of the population for the proposed project

Mr. Love stated that he would assume that there are no current short term psychiatric beds in Sussex County. There are none in the Eastern Shore area that might support Sussex. It would be helpful if the committee could get a sense of what the demand might be based on numbers of people from Sussex who might be going to Meadowwood or Rochford.

Mark Thompson stated that programs at the proposed site would be able to provide services for veterans. He asked if there is a way to obtain data on the number of veterans in Sussex County with PTSD and other related psychiatric issues that have to wait and have to travel to Elsmere or out of state.

The staff will contact the Department of Veterans Affairs for data on the number of veterans in Sussex County diagnosed with mental health issues.

Criterion III: The availability of less costly and/or more effective alternatives to the proposal, including alternatives involving the use of resources located outside the state of Delaware.
Mr. Thompson stated that no other alternative facilities exist for people in Sussex County.

Criterion IV: The relationship of the proposal to the existing health care delivery system.

Mr. Walsh stated that Beebe Medical Center has a large emergency room. They have periodically had problems with people who come in with mental health difficulties that basically leave them completely jammed. People may be there for 24 or 36 hours until a state trooper is available to transport them to Dover if there is space available, which frequently is not the case.

Part of the applicant's argument is that this would relieve a great deal of pressure on the emergency rooms.

Mr. Thompson stated that if a patient visits a physician's office and says that they are going to be of harm to their self or others, that is an automatic trigger for the staff to call 911, get things in motion, and get the state police there to transport them to the nearest facility that can handle them.

Criterion V: The immediate and long term viability of the proposal in terms of the applicant's access to financial, management and other necessary resources.

Mr. Love stated that he would like to have the staff ask the applicant the following questions about the application.

- On page 26 of the application explain the contractual adjustments and how they derive at the figures.
- On page 27 there are many assumptions regarding one percent reimbursement rates. What is this based on?
- On page 28, explain the bed use data; specifically, the estimated number of discharges and what those numbers are based on.

Mr. Thompson stated that he thinks the financing is secured. Mr. Walsh stated that it is secure and they do not have to go outside for funding.

Criterion VI: The anticipated effect of the proposal on the costs of and charges for health care.
There were no questions with regard to criterion VI.

Criterion VII: The anticipated effect of the proposal on the quality of health care.
There were no questions with regard to criterion VII.

Next Steps

Mr. Walsh stated that he would like to have Review Committee consider having the public hearing in Sussex County. The Review Committee agreed.

The staff will look for a meeting facility in Sussex County.

Ms. Wright stated that the tentative date for the public hearing is September 22, 2015. By statute they are not able to post that public notice in advance of 14 days before the public hearing is scheduled.

A Review Committee meeting will be scheduled after that. The Board will need to make its decision at the October 22, 2015 meeting to remain within the time line. The applicant will be notified by November 19, 2015

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Guests Attending

Charles Constant
Doug Gramiak
Cheryl Heiks
William Mason
John McKenna
Steve Page
Jason Powell

DBHS
Young Conaway Public Strategies
Cozen O'Connor
Meadow Wood BHS
UHS
SUN Behavioral Health
Rockford Center